



Join Navan's Dispersed Urban Orchard #NavanDUO

Wild About Navan are now inviting local Residents Associations to join the Navan Dispersed Urban Orchard project! The aim of this project is to create orchards and nature-friendly areas on estate greens around Navan. These havens for native wildlife will be spread over a wide area (=dispersed) to form a green belt through Navan (=urban), eventually becoming a network of orchards for all to enjoy in years to come. The aim is to get people together to connect with each other and with nature, and to help native biodiversity (the variety of life) in our town.

We are looking for three Navan estates to be the flagship estates for the Navan DUO in 2021. Here are the four simple steps to get involved:

1. Gather your community

Consult your RA and neighbours and arrange a small group that would get involved in the planting and care of your orchard over the next 5 years as it establishes.

2. Choose a suitable site to join the Navan DUO

Find an area that would be suitable for planting an orchard of 4-8 trees, 3-6 metres apart. Stand where you are considering planting: is there enough space for trees to grow, what's the soil like, is there enough sunshine, and most importantly, is this a place that your community would be able to look after for a few years as the trees get established? *Choose from one of two options (or a mix of both):*

OPTION A: Orchard: You have found the perfect site for an orchard if it:

- Has good, loamy, free-draining soils.
- Is south facing, receiving light from early morning to late evening.
- Is sheltered from strong winds and frosts.
- Find out more: "Creating an orchard" section here: www.irishseedsavers.ie/apple-tree-faq

OPTION B: Wild Orchard: Uncultivated trees tend to be less fussy about where they grow. You have found the perfect site for such a wild food area (think hazelnuts and hawberries, cherries and crabapples) if it:

- Has generally well draining soils.
- Has space for 3 trees to grow big safely, 3-6 metres apart (as a hedgerow or stand of trees).
- Receives some hours of light.
- Read more here: www.treecouncil.ie/native-irish-trees

3. Pledge to have a greener estate: simple changes can make a big difference.

- Stop using herbicides or pesticides especially at the bases of trees or other wild areas.
- Try to leave an area wild if possible: long grass, nettles and ivy are great for wildlife
- Leave a meter margin of longer grass e.g. along a wall or around some mature trees.
- Create a bug hotel, hedgehog hideaway, or bird nest box
- Explore other wildlife friendly actions. Find a handy guide at: <https://pollinators.ie/communities>

4. Email WildAboutNavan@gmail.com (write "Navan DUO" in header) with the following:

- A photo and location (Google map pin or Eircode of closest house) for planting the trees.
- What other nature-friendly areas and/or actions could your estate provide for local wildlife?
- A short paragraph on why your RA wants to get involved, what kind of gardening/tree planting experience you have, and anything else of note.

We will be in touch with the chosen RAs by October, and plan to expand the DUO to the other estates in the following year!